



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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Ballenger Creek Park synthetic field will open September 22 . . .

COMMISSIONERS MOVE FORWARD WITH NAMING FIRST SYNTHETIC ATHLETIC FIELD IN COUNTY AFTER CHUCK FOREMAN

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today agreed to move forward with naming the first multi-purpose synthetic turf field in Frederick County after Frederick High School sports standout and All-Pro Minnesota Vikings running back Chuck Foreman, and also asked the Parks & Recreation Commission to give feedback on the board's recommendation. The commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. on September 11 at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Md.

Chuck Foreman was a star athlete at Frederick High School and eventually went on to become one of the most recognized National Football League players. He was named an all-pro offensive running back four times while he played for the Minnesota Vikings from 1973-1979, and played in three Super Bowls.

Board President Blaine Young said, "There is a lot of excitement from athletes of all ages about the first synthetic multi-purpose turf field in Frederick County. We feel it is appropriate to name this new field after Chuck Foreman, one of our county's star athletes who deserves such local recognition while he is also being considered for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He currently is part of our local YMCA Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Vikings Ring of Honor. He has been an inspiration to many athletes and we want them to remember for years to come how one of their own worked hard and reached his dream. We need to preserve our local history and this is an excellent way to honor a player such as Chuck Foreman. I have personally spoken with him at his home in Minnesota, and he is delighted to be considered for this honor.

"Ultimately, the naming decision rests with the Board of County Commissioners, but we wanted to make sure we included our Parks & Recreation Commission for feedback."

(more)

The county commissioners and commission will hold a dedication ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on September 22 at the new synthetic field at [Ballenger Creek Park](#), 5420 Ballenger Creek Pike, Frederick, Md.

Due to increased demand for athletic fields in Frederick County and the need for providing high-use and low-maintenance facilities, the Division of Parks & Recreation reviewed all park sites and evaluated existing conditions before recommending Ballenger Creek Park as the site to receive a synthetic turf multi-purpose field. The site is centrally located in the county, near a high-population area and has restroom facilities and parking nearby in the park's [Community Building](#).

The benefits of synthetic turf as compared to natural turf are that fields drain more effectively, so they are subject to fewer rain delays. They also can handle much more use without the same wear and tear as natural fields. Although the synthetic fields will not require mowing or fertilizing, they will still need maintenance. However, funds from rental fees are expected to generate revenue and offset operating costs for the field and also provide funds to pay a portion of the capital cost.

The Board of County Commissioners supports additional synthetic turf fields to accommodate the increasing demand by athletic groups. The commissioners in July approved the county's FY 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program, which includes funding for a synthetic multi-purpose turf field at Utica District Park.

For more information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/parks, or contact Division of Parks & Recreation Director Paul Dial at 301-600-1647 or via e-mail at pdial@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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